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CLAIMS

- ~~1. A method comprising the steps of:
deactivating a circuit during a first time period;
enabling a portion of the circuit for a second time period;
sensing an electromagnetic signal during the second time period;
enabling the circuit for an extended time period that is greater than the second time period upon the sensing of the electromagnetic signal;
processing the electromagnetic signal during the extended time period to obtain an input code;
comparing the input code to an access code; and
providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code.~~
- ~~2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating an oscillation signal and deactivating the circuit in response to the oscillation signal.~~
- ~~3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of toggling a switch to enable the circuit for the extended time period.~~
- ~~4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of operating at least one of the following in response to the signal to unlock the device: an electromechanical driver; a solenoid; a DC motor; an electromechanical relay; and a solid state relay.~~
- ~~5. The method of claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic signal is infrared.~~
- ~~6. The method of claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic signal is within a radio frequency.~~
- ~~7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of activating another portion of the circuit to compare the input code to an access code.~~
- ~~8. A method comprising the steps of:
periodically enabling and disabling a circuit during each of a plurality of duty cycles wherein the circuit is enabled for a time t_1 during each of the duty cycles;
receiving an input code transmitted via an electromagnetic signal;
comparing the input code to an access code;
enabling the circuit as the input code is being received for a time t_2 that is greater than said time t_1 ; and
providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code.~~
- ~~9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of sensing receipt of the electromagnetic signal.~~
- ~~10. The method of claim 8, wherein the electromagnetic signal is infrared.~~
- ~~11. The method of claim 8, wherein the electromagnetic signal is within a radio frequency.~~

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CLAIMS

1. ~~A method comprising the steps of:
deactivating a circuit during a first time period;
enabling a portion of the circuit for a second time period;
sensing an electromagnetic signal during the second time period;
enabling the circuit for an extended time period that is greater than the second time period upon the sensing of the electromagnetic signal;
processing the electromagnetic signal during the extended time period to obtain an input code;
comparing the input code to an access code; and
providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code.~~
2. ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating an oscillation signal and deactivating the circuit in response to the oscillation signal.~~
3. ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of toggling a switch to enable the circuit for the extended time period.~~
4. ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of operating at least one of the following in response to the signal to unlock the device: an electromechanical driver; a solenoid; a DC motor; an electromechanical relay; and, a solid state relay.~~
5. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic signal is infrared.~~
6. ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic signal is within a radio frequency.~~
7. ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of activating another portion of the circuit to compare the input code to an access code.~~
8. ~~A method comprising the steps of:
periodically enabling and disabling a circuit during each of a plurality of duty cycles wherein the circuit is enabled for a time t_1 during each of the duty cycles;
receiving an input code transmitted via an electromagnetic signal;
comparing the input code to an access code;
enabling the circuit as the input code is being received for a time t_2 that is greater than said time t_1 ; and,
providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code.~~
9. ~~The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of sensing receipt of the electromagnetic signal.~~
10. ~~The method of claim 8, wherein the electromagnetic signal is infrared.~~
11. ~~The method of claim 8, wherein the electromagnetic signal is within a radio frequency.~~

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- ~~12. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of generating an override signal during at least a portion of the step of enabling the circuit as the input code is being received.~~
- ~~13. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of toggling a switch during at least a portion of the step of enabling the circuit as the input code is being received.~~
- ~~14. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of operating at least one of the following in response to the signal to unlock the device: an electromechanical driver; a solenoid; a DC motor; an electromechanical relay; and, a solid state relay.~~
- ~~15. A method for operating a circuit on current drained from a battery comprising the steps of:~~
- ~~— generating a signal to indicate detection of a device capable of providing an electromagnetic signal;~~
 - ~~— receiving an input code transmitted by the electromagnetic signal;~~
 - ~~— increasing the current drained from the battery;~~
 - ~~— comparing the input code to an access code;~~
 - ~~— providing an output to an unlock device if the input code matches the access code; and,~~
 - ~~— decreasing the current drained from the battery after receiving the input code.~~
- ~~16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of increasing the current drained from the battery comprising toggling a switch and the step of decreasing the current drained from the battery comprising toggling the switch.~~
- ~~17. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of generating an oscillation signal during the step of receiving the input code.~~
- ~~18. The method of claim 15, wherein the electromagnetic signal is infrared.~~
- ~~19. The method of claim 15, wherein the electromagnetic signal within a radio frequency.~~
- ~~20. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of operating at least one of the following in response to the signal to unlock the device: an electromechanical driver; a solenoid; a DC motor; an electromechanical relay; and, a solid state relay.~~
- ~~21. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of periodically enabling a processor for performing at least the step of comparing the input code to the access code.~~
22. A method comprising the steps of:
- deactivating a circuit during a first time period;
 - enabling a portion of the circuit for a second time period;
 - sensing an electromagnetic signal during the second time period;

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enabling the circuit for an extended time period that is greater than the second time period upon the sensing of the electromagnetic signal;

processing the electromagnetic signal during the extended time period to obtain an input code;

comparing the input code to an access code;

providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code; and

The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of receiving another input code from a keyboard and comparing the other input code to the access code or another access code.

24. The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of receiving a signal in response to pressing a program key on the keyboard.

25. A method comprising the steps of:

deactivating a circuit during a first time period;

enabling a portion of the circuit for a second time period;

sensing an electromagnetic signal during the second time period;

enabling the circuit for an extended time period that is greater than the second time period upon the sensing of the electromagnetic signal;

processing the electromagnetic signal during the extended time period to obtain an input code;

comparing the input code to an access code;

providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code; and

The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of periodically enabling a low-battery detection circuit for measuring a battery voltage during a first time period, and disabling a the low-battery detection circuit during a second time period for measuring a battery voltage.

26. A method comprising the steps of:

deactivating a circuit during a first time period;

enabling a portion of the circuit for a second time period;

sensing an electromagnetic signal during the second time period;

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enabling the circuit for an extended time period that is greater than the second time period upon the sensing of the electromagnetic signal;

processing the electromagnetic signal during the extended time period to obtain an input code;

comparing the input code to an access code;

providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code; and

The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of providing a non-zero power output to the device, providing a lower non-zero power output to the device, and transitioning from the non-zero power output to the lower non-zero power output.

27. ~~The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of writing the access code into a memory in response to a write signal received through a communication port.~~

28. A method comprising the steps of:

deactivating a circuit during a first time period;

enabling a portion of the circuit for a second time period;

sensing an electromagnetic signal during the second time period;

enabling the circuit for an extended time period that is greater than the second time period upon the sensing of the electromagnetic signal;

processing the electromagnetic signal during the extended time period to obtain an input code;

comparing the input code to an access code;

providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code;

writing the access code into a memory in response to a write signal received through a communication port; and

The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of writing a serial number into the memory.

29. The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of transmitting the serial number through the communication port.

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30. ~~The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting the access code through a communication port in response to a read signal.~~

31. A method comprising the steps of:

periodically enabling and disabling a circuit during each of a plurality of duty cycles wherein the circuit is enabled for a time t_1 during each of the duty cycles;
receiving an input code transmitted via an electromagnetic signal;
comparing the input code to an access code;
enabling the circuit as the input code is being received for a time t_2 that is greater than said time t_1 ;
providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code; and

~~The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of~~ periodically enabling a processor for performing at least the step of comparing the input code to the access code.

32. A method comprising the steps of:

periodically enabling and disabling a circuit during each of a plurality of duty cycles wherein the circuit is enabled for a time t_1 during each of the duty cycles;
receiving an input code transmitted via an electromagnetic signal;
comparing the input code to an access code;
enabling the circuit as the input code is being received for a time t_2 that is greater than said time t_1 ;
providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code; and

~~The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of~~ receiving another input code from a keyboard and comparing the other input code to the access code or another access code.

33. The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of receiving a signal in response to pressing a program key on the keyboard.

34. A method comprising the steps of:

periodically enabling and disabling a circuit during each of a plurality of duty cycles wherein the circuit is enabled for a time t_1 during each of the duty cycles;

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receiving an input code transmitted via an electromagnetic signal;
comparing the input code to an access code;
enabling the circuit as the input code is being received for a time t_2 that is greater than said time t_1 ;
providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code; and,
~~The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of~~ periodically enabling and disabling a
low-battery detection circuit for measuring a battery voltage.

35. A method comprising the steps of:

periodically enabling and disabling a circuit during each of a plurality of duty cycles
wherein the circuit is enabled for a time t_1 during each of the duty cycles;
receiving an input code transmitted via an electromagnetic signal;
comparing the input code to an access code;
enabling the circuit as the input code is being received for a time t_2 that is greater than said time t_1 ;
providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code; and,
~~The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of~~ providing a non-zero power output to
the device, providing a lower non-zero power output to the device, and transitioning from the
non-zero power output to the lower non-zero power output.

36. ~~The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of writing the access code into a~~
memory in response to a write signal received through a communication port.

37. A method comprising the steps of:

periodically enabling and disabling a circuit during each of a plurality of duty cycles
wherein the circuit is enabled for a time t_1 during each of the duty cycles;
receiving an input code transmitted via an electromagnetic signal;
comparing the input code to an access code;
enabling the circuit as the input code is being received for a time t_2 that is greater than said time t_1 ;
providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code;

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writing the access code into a memory in response to a write signal received through a communication port; and

~~The method of claim 36 further comprising the step of~~ writing a serial number into the memory.

38. The method of claim 37 further comprising the step of transmitting the serial number through the communication port.

~~39. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of transmitting the access code through a communication port in response to a read signal.~~

~~40. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of periodically enabling a processor for performing the step of comparing the input code to the access code.~~

41. A method for operating a circuit on current drained from a battery comprising the steps of:

generating a signal to indicate detection of a device capable of providing an electromagnetic signal;

receiving an input code transmitted by the electromagnetic signal;

increasing the current drained from the battery;

comparing the input code to an access code;

providing an output to an unlock device if the input code matches the access code;

decreasing the current drained from the battery after receiving the input code; and

~~The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of~~ receiving another input code from a keyboard and comparing the other input code to the access code or another access code.

42. The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of receiving a signal in response to pressing a program key on the keyboard.

43. A method for operating a circuit on current drained from a battery comprising the steps of:

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generating a signal to indicate detection of a device capable of providing an electromagnetic signal;

receiving an input code transmitted by the electromagnetic signal;

increasing the current drained from the battery;

comparing the input code to an access code;

providing an output to an unlock device if the input code matches the access code;

decreasing the current drained from the battery after receiving the input code; and,

The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of periodically enabling and disabling a low-battery detection circuit for measuring a battery voltage.

44. A method for operating a circuit on current drained from a battery comprising the steps of:

generating a signal to indicate detection of a device capable of providing an electromagnetic signal;

receiving an input code transmitted by the electromagnetic signal;

increasing the current drained from the battery;

comparing the input code to an access code;

providing an output to an unlock device if the input code matches the access code;

decreasing the current drained from the battery after receiving the input code; and,

The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of providing a non-zero power output to the unlock device, providing a lower non-zero power output to the unlock device, and transitioning from the non-zero power output to the lower non-zero power output.

45. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of writing the access code into a memory in response to a write signal received through a communication port.

46. A method for operating a circuit on current drained from a battery comprising the steps of:

generating a signal to indicate detection of a device capable of providing an electromagnetic signal;

receiving an input code transmitted by the electromagnetic signal;

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increasing the current drained from the battery;
comparing the input code to an access code;
providing an output to an unlock device if the input code matches the access code;
decreasing the current drained from the battery after receiving the input code;
writing the access code into a memory in response to a write signal received through a communication port; and,
~~The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of~~ writing a serial number into the memory.

47. The method of claim 46 further comprising the step of transmitting the serial number through the communication port.

~~48. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of transmitting the access code through a communication port in response to a read signal.~~